

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
SHREVEPORT DIVISION

JOEL RENE WHITMORE

CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-629-P

VERSUS

JUDGE HICKS

WARDEN

MAGISTRATE JUDGE HORNSBY

MEMORANDUM ORDER

Before the court is a petition for writ of habeas corpus filed by pro se petitioner Joel Rene Whitmore (“Petitioner”), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. This petition was received and filed in this court on March 26, 2013. Petitioner challenges his state court convictions and sentences. Petitioner names the Warden of Avoyelles Marksville Detention Center as respondent.

On December 29, 2009, Petitioner was convicted in the Louisiana Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court, Parish of Bossier, of four counts of computer aided solicitation of a juvenile and two counts of indecent behavior with a juvenile. On April 13, 2010, he was sentenced to four years imprisonment at hard labor without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence as to each count of computer aided solicitation of a juvenile convictions. The court ordered said sentence to run concurrently to one another. The court sentenced Petitioner to four years at hard labor as to each count of the indecent behavior with a juvenile convictions. The court ordered said sentences to run consecutively to the sentences for computer aided solicitation of a juvenile. The court suspended these two

sentences for indecent behavior with a juvenile and ordered five years supervised probation.

The court ordered Petitioner to register as a sex offender.

In support of this petition, Petitioner claims (1) La. R.S. 14:81.3 and La. R.S. 14:81(A)2 violate protected speech under the First Amendment, (2) La. R.S. 14:81.3 and La. R.S. 14:81(A)2 violate due process rights, (3) his sentences are excessive, (4) he should have been prosecuted in Avoyelles Parish, (5) there was no search warrant for his home or property, (6) the recordings of his chat messages without a warrant were illegal wire taps, and (7) he was not told that he was being arrested or charged.

Petitioner has failed to demonstrate that he properly exhausted **claims four through seven**. He demonstrates that he raised claims four through seven in the trial court but does not provide documentation that these claims were raised and ruled on by the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Louisiana. It is well settled that a petitioner seeking federal habeas corpus relief cannot collaterally attack his state court conviction in federal court until he has exhausted available state remedies. Rose v. Lundy, 455 U.S. 509, 102 S.Ct. 1198, 71 L.Ed.2d 379 (1982); Minor v. Lucas, 697 F.2d 697 (5th Cir. 1983). This requirement is not a jurisdictional bar but a procedural one erected in the interest of comity providing state courts first opportunity to pass upon and correct alleged constitutional violations. Picard v. Connor, 404 U.S. 270, 275, 92 S.Ct. 509, 30 L.Ed.2d 438, 443 (1971); Shute v. Texas, 117 F.3d 233 (5th Cir. 1997). Additionally, under 28 U.S.C.

§2254(b)(1)(A)¹ the district court is precluded from granting habeas relief on an unexhausted claim.

In light of the above procedural history, the instant petition constitutes a “mixed” petition, having both exhausted and unexhausted claims. When a habeas petition includes both exhausted claims and unexhausted claims, the district court must dismiss the entire “mixed petition.” Murphy v. Johnson, 110 F.3d 10, 11, (5th Cir. 1997), quoting, Rose v. Lundy, 455 U.S. at 522, 102 S.Ct. at 1205; Graham v. Johnson, 94 F.3d 958, 968 (5th Cir. 1996).

Because all of Petitioner’s claims have not been exhausted in the state courts, this entire petition is subject to dismissal. On the other hand, if Petitioner dismisses his unexhausted claims and asserts only his exhausted claims, he may be entitled to go forward. However, Petitioner is put on notice that dismissing the unexhausted claims is not without consequence. If he should dismiss the unexhausted claims at this time, he may be precluded from bringing these claims in the future. Specifically, the law with respect to successive petitions requires a petitioner to obtain authorization from the appropriate court of appeals

¹§ 2254 provides, in pertinent part:

(b)(1) An application for a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court **shall not be granted unless** it appears that--

(A) **the applicant has exhausted the remedies available in the courts of the State;**

before filing a second or successive petition. 28 U.S.C. §2244(b)(3)(A)². Additionally, any future filings may be barred by the one-year statute of limitations imposed by 28 U.S.C. §2244(d)(1)³.

Thus, Petitioner has three alternatives. He may choose to: (1) maintain this petition with the unexhausted claims with full knowledge that the entire petition is subject to dismissal; or (2) indicate to the court that he wishes to dismiss the unexhausted claims with full knowledge that he will risk the opportunity to present these claims in a successive petition; or (3) dismiss this entire petition so that he can exhaust all of the claims before

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28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A), provides in pertinent part, “[b]efore a second or successive application permitted by this section [28 U.S.C. § 2254] is filed in the district court, **the applicant shall move in the appropriate court of appeals for an order authorizing the district court to consider the application.**”

³As a general rule, section 2244(d)(1)(A) requires that a petitioner bring his section 2254 claims within one year of the date his conviction became final. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d) provides, (1) A 1-year period of limitation shall apply to an application for a writ of habeas corpus by a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court. The limitation period shall run from the latest of--

(A) the date on which the judgment became final by conclusion of direct review or the expiration of the time for seeking such review;

...

The section also sets up statutory exceptions which can, in appropriate cases, extend the time for filing a federal habeas petition beyond the one year period after final conviction if the state imposes an unconstitutional impediment to the filing of a federal habeas petition, if the Supreme Court recognizes a new constitutional right and makes that right retroactive to cases on collateral review, or if the petitioner is unable through the exercise of due diligence to discover the factual predicate of the petitioner’s federal habeas claim. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1)(B)(C) and (D).

The time during which a “**properly filed**” application for State post-conviction” review is pending shall not be counted toward any period of limitation under this section. 28 U.S.C. 2244(d)(2).


refiling with full knowledge that he may be barred by the one-year time limitation provision on federal habeas review.

Accordingly;

IT IS ORDERED that Petitioner, within thirty (30) days from the date of this order, expressly state whether he seeks review of the unexhausted claims in this court at this time, whether he wishes to dismiss same, or whether he wishes to dismiss this entire petition to re-file at a later date after he exhausts state court remedies on all claims asserted herein.

Failure to comply with this court order will result in dismissal of this suit pursuant to rules 41(b) and 16(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in Chambers at Shreveport, Louisiana, this 18th day of December 2014.



Mark L. Hornsby
U.S. Magistrate Judge